

PER CAPITA INCOME

Description of Indicator

Real Per Capita Income growth is the measure of income growth per person in dollar amounts. Total personal income includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, property income and transfer payments, such as pensions and unemployment insurance. This measure enables multi-year comparisons of wealth per person in Orange County to determine if the material well being of residents is increasing.

Why is it Important?

Per capita income is the standard measurement for the overall wealth and standard of living for an area's residents. It is a proxy measurement for the ability of our residents to make necessary and discretionary expenditures on goods and services that improve their quality of life. The overall increase in wealth of Orange County residents is important because higher disposable incomes result in additional purchases of goods and services which provide jobs, tax receipts, and a sense of material satisfaction as residents have what they need to survive and prosper.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's per capita income level is higher than the U.S. average, the California average, and higher than neighboring counties' per capita income. However, Orange County's growth rate for per capita income from 1993 to 1997 trails both the state and national growth rates, as well as similar regions such as Boston, Austin, Research Triangle, Minneapolis, and Santa Clara County.

Per Capita Income Growth vs. State and Nation

Per Capita Income	1993	1997	1993-1997 % Growth
Orange County	\$25,973	\$30,115	3.8
Los Angeles County	22,098	25,719	3.9
San Diego County	21,505	24,965	3.8
San Bernardino County	16,871	18,673	2.6
Riverside County	18,574	20,645	2.7
Santa Clara County	28,413	37,856	7.4
San Francisco County	33,332	40,357	4.9
California	22,430	26,314	4.1
U.S.	21,220	25,288	4.5
Boston	25,760	31,808	5.4
Austin	20,126	25,420	6
Research Triangle	22,736	27,711	5.1
Seattle	26,493	33,373	5.9
Minneapolis	24,828	30,123	5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis